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D. Townsend

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

02/25/03

In re the application of:

Kazuo Soga *et al.*

Serial No.: NEW

Filed: January 24, 2002 (herewith)

For: PIPING STRUCTURE  
OF CRAWLER DRIVING  
HYDRAULIC MOTOR



**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER  
37 C.F.R. § 1.97 AND 1.98**

Honorable Commissioner  
of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

January 24, 2002

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 applicant hereby notifies the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO-1449 form and which the Examiner may deem relevant to the patentability of the claims in the above-identified application. One copy of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

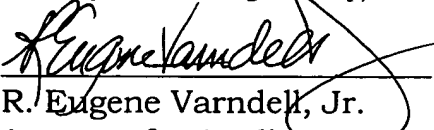
The In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for the listed foreign language document, an English abstract is attached to the listed document. In addition, it is respectfully noted that Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 202150/1997 is discussed at the bottom of page 1 of applicant's specification disclosure.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial or otherwise mark one copy of forms PTO-1449 and forward the same to the applicants indicating that the documents listed thereon have been considered.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee therefor, as well as any deficiency in the payment of the required fee(s) or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 22-0256.

Respectfully submitted,  
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(Formerly Varndell Legal Group)

  
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